

PRE-HEARING BILL ANALYSIS

What is the reason for this bill? (e.g. a recent court decision or regulatory decision, a constituent concern, a matter raised by local leaders in your district, etc.)

The city of San Marcos has been trying to receive this designation and brought the issue to our office.

What issue does this bill seek to address? (e.g. a statute needs updating, a governmental entity needs new authority to fulfill its obligation or no longer should be charged with undertaking certain responsibilities, something undesirable occurs too frequently or something desirable occurs too infrequently, an occupation is overregulated or in need of additional oversight, etc.)

The City of San Marcos is not currently recognized as the Texas Mermaid Capitol in an official capacity. Located in San Marcos is a natural spring that has been regarded by the community residing there for over ten thousand years, bringing with it the myth of the mermaid. This myth was solidified in the community by the Aquarena Springs Amusement Park which showcased an underground theatre of aquamaids performing underground ballet. Since then, the city has been known for its mermaid connection, hosting the annual Mermaid SPLASH Festival, the Mermaid Art Ball, and is home to the Mermaid Society of Texas which fosters harmony between the environment and the arts and supports economic growth.

How does this bill seek to resolve the issue(s)?

This bill would officially designate the city of San Marcos as the Mermaid Capitol of Texas for the next ten years. The city of San Marcos has shown great connection to the mermaid, and its city identity would benefit greatly from this designation. The committee substitute for this corrects the year that Spring Lake was formed from 1845 to 1849.